

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/800,814

Examiner

William L. Bangachon

Applicant(s)

YASHIKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 5/3/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5 and 18-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Response

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks section, filed 5/3/2006, with respect to claims 2-5 and 18-24 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 2-5 and 18-24 has been withdrawn as follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The rejection of claims 2-5, 18, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The rejection of claims 18-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 5,621,380 (Mutoh et al) is withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-5 and 18-24 are allowed. Please note that the remaining claims are renumbered 1-11.

5. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record do not disclose: a method for rewriting data stored in a rewritable memory of a vehicle comprising the step of "deleting at the vehicle

Art Unit: 2612

controller a first security function expressible as an algebraic equation stored in the rewritable memory, and if permitted by the external rewriting device, writing a third security function, different from the first security function, expressible as an algebraic equation into the rewritable memory” recited in claim 18. Claim 23 recites a vehicle controller for practicing the method of claim 18 and therefore allowable for the same reasons. Claim 24 recites the limitations of claim 23 further comprising “releasing a security feature that prevents the rewritable memory from being rewritten a relationship exists between the first security data received from the rewriting device and the second security data stored in the rewritable memory”, in combination with, “deleting the second security data after releasing the security feature”, and in combination with, “write third security data received from the rewriting device, different from the first security data, into the rewritable memory”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USP 6,160,488 {Honda}, USP 5,886,421 {Mizuno et al} and USP 5,677,680 {Yoda} are cited in that these patents teach of programming the ECU of a vehicle with

Art Unit: 2612

function codes (i.e. encryption codes) but do not disclose the allowable subject matter above.

Office Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to William Bangachon whose telephone number is **(571)-272-3065**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on **(571)-272-7308**. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300** for regular and After Final formal communications. The Examiner's fax number is **(571)-273-3065** for informal communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

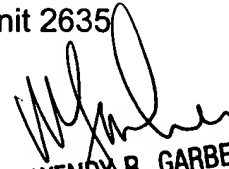
Art Unit: 2612

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

June 22, 2006



William L Bangachon
Examiner
Art Unit 2635



WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600